



GSA Launches New Web-Based KAER Toolkit for Brain Health

Inside this Issue

02

From the CEO

Taking action against ageism

GSA has released a new edition of its [KAER Toolkit for Brain Health](#) in an online format. The toolkit is intended to support primary care teams in implementing a comprehensive approach to initiating conversations about brain health, detecting and diagnosing dementia, and providing individuals with community-based supports.

Early identification of cognitive changes and interventions including connecting individuals with appropriate supports and services can be essential for delaying cognitive and functional decline.

Continued on page 08

03

Member News

In memoriam for Leonard Hayflick, John Nesselroade & Ruth D. Palombo

National Center to Reframe Aging Earns ADvancing States' Arthur Flemming Award



National Center Program Director Hannah Albers, National Center Executive Director Patricia D'Antonio, and GSA CEO James Appleby

States. This distinction recognizes individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions in advancing public policy in aging.

Patricia M. D'Antonio, BSP Pharm, MS, MBA, BCGP, executive director of the National Center to Reframe Aging and vice president for policy and professional affairs at GSA, accepted the award at ADvancing States' annual Home and Community-Based Services Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, on August 21.

"This recognition highlights the critical role the National Center to Reframe

Continued on page 11

09

GSA Enrich: Online Anytime

New flash video webinar series

The [National Center to Reframe Aging](#) – the leading organization providing expertise in effective communication strategies surrounding aging issues – has been honored with the Arthur Flemming Award from ADvancing

Join a GSA Interest Group

Did you know GSA has more than 60 interest groups covering a range of topics? Each has its own GSA Connect Community to share information and resources.

Stay Connected



From the CEO

As Ageism Awareness Spreads, So Does Movement to Confront It



By James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH
jappleby@geron.org

Congratulations to the team at GSA's National Center to Reframe Aging, the 2024 recipient of the prestigious Arthur Fleming Award which was presented during the ADvancing States' Home and Community-Based Services Conference! The full story is featured on the cover of this issue. The National Center was established just two years ago at GSA after we laid the groundwork by leading the Reframing Aging Initiative for several years prior.

This initiative began over a decade ago when we joined with other like-minded, aging-focused groups – the now 10-member Leaders of Aging Organizations collaborative – to advance a complete and equitable story on aging while working to address ageism. The movement to reframe aging, and the work of GSA's National Center to Reframe Aging, is supported by four forward-thinking philanthropic foundations: Archstone Foundation, The John A. Hartford Foundation, RRF Foundation for Aging, and The SCAN Foundation. All of these organizations deserve credit for advancing the work that led to this recognition with the ADvancing States Award. Their vision for what the National Center could accomplish has certainly been validated.

The National Center has undertaken a lot of work in the past two years, and the momentum is building. This year alone, it has become a leading partner with several states in the development and implementation of their multi-sector plans on aging.

In April, the National Center convened thought leaders, national experts, federal representatives, and local, regional, and state-based leaders for Summit 2024: The Movement to Reframe Aging. This provided a forum for transformative conversations about the current movement to

reframe aging and for all to gain insight into real world applications of proven communication strategies and tools.

And the tools that the National Center now offers are indeed robust; there are [many resources now available at reframingaging.org](https://reframingaging.org) that I encourage you to check out. These include a Quick Start Guide, Best Practices Guide, and other tools.

These will prove valuable as we approach the annual Ageism Awareness Day on October 9. As [hosted by our colleagues at the American Society on Aging \(ASA\)](#), this observance is an opportunity to draw attention to the impact of ageism in our society and how we can reframe aging in our communities. ASA has plenty of tools you can use to get involved. And we can all benefit from an assessment of the ageism we may find within ourselves; [Harvard University's Implicit Association Test](#) has a questionnaire related to aging.

Ageism is entrenched in our society, but thankfully more people are taking notice; I and some GSA member colleagues were recently quoted in [a story on this topic in the Christian Science Monitor](#). And in our applications for GSA's Journalists in Aging Fellows Program this year, it was heartening to see many reporters acknowledging that ageism is a problem to solve.

The movement to reframe aging is a long-term social change endeavor. But we continually see signs that the needle can be moved, and it's up to all of us to use our collective strength to ensure a just future for all. I encourage all GSA members to play a part in bringing attention to Ageism Awareness Day inside your respective organizations.

MemberNews

In Memoriam

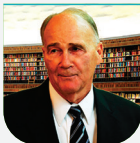


Leonard Hayflick, PhD, FGSA, who served as GSA president in 1983, passed away on August 1 at age 96. He was one of the founders of research on the fundamental biology of aging with a career spanning 60 years.

He was a founding member and chair of the Executive Committee of the Council of the National Institute on Aging. He served as a professor of medical microbiology at the Stanford University School of Medicine from 1968 to 1975, spending the rest of career as a professor of anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine.

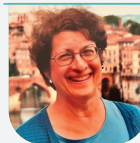
Among his many accomplishments, he discovered that normal human cells have limited capacity for cell division, now known as the "Hayflick Limit." He also developed the first cultured normal human fetal cell strains in which he discovered the phenomenon of cell senescence, proved that the strains had the broadest human virus spectrum of any cell culture, demonstrated their efficacy and safety for use in human virus vaccine production, and produced the first poliomyelitis vaccine on his cell strain WI-38.

Hayflick served as chair of GSA's Biological Sciences Section and editor-in-chief of the biological sciences section of *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*. He also was a recipient of GSA's Robert W. Kleemeier Award.



John Nesselrode, PhD, FGSA, passed away on July 24 at age 88. After receiving his PhD in 1967, he held research, teaching, and administrative positions at West Virginia University and The Pennsylvania State University. He also served as a visiting senior fellow with the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and Education, in Berlin. In 1991, he began his tenure at the University of Virginia as the Hugh Scott Hamilton Professor of Psychology, retiring from formal teaching in 2010. He was founder and director of the university's Center for Developmental and Health Research Methodology, a leading training program for undergraduate through postgraduate education in quantitative research methods that relate to process and change. He also founded and directed the university's section of the Max Planck International Research School on the Life Course.

He was a recipient of GSA's Robert W. Kleemeier Award and the GSA Behavioral and Social Sciences Section's Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award.



Ruth D. Palombo, MS, MA, PhD, FGSA, passed away on July 13. She held several notable public health leadership positions in Massachusetts during her career, including assistant director for patient services at the Frances Stern Nutrition Center and state nutrition director at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

As her career evolved into public health and aging, she moved on to a position in the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Executive Office of Elder Affairs. There, she served as the assistant secretary for program planning and management. Palombo also had a joint appointment at the Tufts University School of Medicine and the Friedman School of Nutritional Science and Policy, where she was an assistant professor and taught courses in gerontology, community nutrition, and public health. She later served as the senior health policy officer at the Tufts Health Plan Foundation.

Member Referral Program

This month's \$25 Amazon gift certificate winner:

Bomin Shim, PhD, RN (who referred new member Julia Pusztai, BSN, MSN, PhD)

To learn how you can become eligible, visit:
www.geron.org/referral.



Member Spotlight

GSA's website features monthly Q&A sessions with distinguished members. The current spotlight shines on: **Minzhi Ye, PhD**

We welcome member submissions at news@geron.org!

Recent Policy Actions



Patricia M. "Trish" D'Antonio
BSPHarm, MS, MBA, BCGP
Vice President of Policy and Professional Affairs



Thomas Jordan Miles III, BA
Director of Policy

To learn more about GSA's advocacy-related activities, visit www.geron.org/advocacy

GSA responded to requests from the office of Senator Edward Markey's (D-MA) regarding amendments to the Older Americans Act (OAA) for [increased support for family caregivers](#) and [expanded access to housing and home modification programs](#). GSA also responded to the U.S. Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee regarding [OAA Reauthorization legislation](#).

GSA's policy staff members attended U.S. Senate committee meetings regarding reauthorization of the [OAA](#) and advancement of the [Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill](#).

GSA's comments of support regarding the amending of the [Treat and Reduce Obesity Act \(H.R. 4818\)](#) were published by the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee.

GSA's support of several pieces of legislation were highlighted as part of Senator Markey's ["Caring for Caregivers" legislative agenda](#) for family caregiving.

GSA recently joined coalitions and other organizations in signing on to [a letter highlighting the need for additional funding for public health and biomedical research programs](#) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and opposing the agency's proposed restructuring.

GSA Friend's Legacy Continues to Advance Future Aging Policy Advocacy

By Brian Lindberg, MMHS, FGSA
GSA Policy Advisor

Many of you know my advocacy mantra by now: "policy, process, and politics." Well, the person who taught me the importance of these three P's has passed away, and I feel her loss deeply. Judy Schneider, the expert on Congress who championed all the right stuff, died on June 21. Judy was the highlight of our Policy Leadership Institute that many GSA members attended as part of the Hartford Geriatric Social Work

fellowships and the Hartford Change Agents Initiative.

Judy worked for the Congressional Research Service (CRS). As a federal agency in the legislative branch of government, CRS provides research and analysis for members of Congress and their staff. With her knowledge of arcane parliamentary procedures and the intricacies of how Congress



really works (committees, rules, dictates, voting), Judy's counsel was sought by many congressional leaders over her forty years at CRS.

I moved to Washington, DC, in 1983 to work for Senator Arlen Specter. In my early days, I attended a weekend retreat to learn how to use the legislative process to advance policy change. Judy was one of the "professors," and her knowledge, strategic thinking, and sense of humor left a lifelong impression on me.

Some of the key takeaways from Judy's tutelage that we still use are understanding the differences between the Senate and House, considering what drives individual Members and staff and developing relationships with them, and using each step in the legislative process to its fullest benefit to your issue (and knowing when to just be quiet). Judy taught us how to be sure that our "right to petition" doesn't get stuck in a procedural or legislative quagmire.

As an example of how the three Ps can play out, during the Older Americans Act reauthorization of 2020, GSA Vice President for Policy and Professional Affairs Patricia D'Antonio, then-GSA policy intern Haley Gallo, and I worked closely with both the Senate and House to create a new Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center (under Title IV of the OAA) at the Administration on Community Living. We hit a snag on the Senate side where Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chair Lamar Alexander was opposing any "new" programs. So, we avoided a fight on the record in the Senate and worked instead to engage House staff and members to secure the proposal in the House bill. When the House bill was sent to the Senate for consideration, there was enough support from others in the Senate to keep the provision intact and the new center became part of the OAA.

Over the years, GSA has developed mutually supportive relationships with congressional staff who truly benefit from GSA member expertise

and testimony, which enable the staff to make the evidence-based case for policy change. We learned from Judy the importance of having knowledge of individual members, their states and districts, their political interests and objectives. For example, we know how to use the background of a member when approaching that staff with a policy issue.

As trusted experts, GSA members are asked to support proposals and to help develop new legislative initiatives. Our policy team and GSA members have, for example, had influence in legislation related to hearing aids, caregivers, geriatric education, social isolation, funding for the National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging, drugs, health care reform, mental health, and so much more, all in part because of the trusting relationships we have maintained and nurtured. Judy's work also inspired us to secure staff feedback on GSA publications.



Lindberg and Schneider in December 2018.

In sum, knowing the three Ps does not guarantee success, but it has enabled us to understand the possibilities, avoid or neutralize opposition, and work with coalitions to show broader support for issues that might not otherwise be seen as bipartisan. I am honored to have called Judy Schneider a friend and colleague of mine and of GSA.

JournalNews

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Publishing Resources

- New articles have been added to the GSA journals' collection on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- View the archived webinar, Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in *The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*



Never miss the latest research



SIGN UP TO EMAIL ALERTS

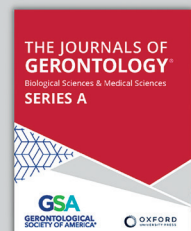
Translational Geroscience Section

- Proceedings from the Fourth Geroscience Summit, Spring 2023 in (*The Journals of Gerontology, Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*)



THE JOURNALS OF GERONTOLOGY[®] SERIES A

CALL FOR PAPERS
Translational Geroscience



Advertise with Us!



This newsletter reaches GSA's 5,500 members both in print and online.

Gerontology News accepts ads for conferences and special events, fellowships, jobs, and degree programs relevant to the field of aging.

See the current rates at www.geron.org/advertising.

ESPO Provides Numerous Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



By Claire Grant, MA

ESPO is looking for volunteers! Volunteering with ESPO is a fantastic way to connect with ESPO and GSA members. Volunteers can further establish their leadership skills in lead or co-lead roles, contribute to GSA programming, network with members across disciplines, gain visibility within GSA, and add to their CV!

ESPO runs seven types of volunteer groups for a diverse array of member interests. The groups and a brief description of their work is outlined below:

Annual Scientific Meeting Workgroups

Help to develop Annual Scientific Meeting ESPO programming

Awards Review Panel

Promote awards, review and select awardees

Communications Taskforce

(broken into three subgroups): Member Outreach promotes ESPO to new and lapsed members. E-comm promotes ESPO activities by managing social media and the ESPO and GSA connects posts. The Newsletter group manages the ESPO newsletter, collecting columns from ESPO task forces and disseminating ESPO news.

Dissertation Writing Group/Pre-Proposal Writing Group Taskforce

Manage and implement writing groups, communicate with participants to disperse materials and surveys.

International Taskforce

Communicate with new international ESPO members, support international member activity at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Webinar Taskforce

Develop and run two ESPO webinars, identify speakers and promote webinars to the ESPO and GSA communities.

Write-In Taskforce

Promote and host monthly write in sessions.

Each group has a range of membership roles. Group leads and co-leaders are appointed for two-year terms. The co-lead learns the role in their first year, then transitions to the lead role in their second year. Non-lead members of each group are appointed for one-year terms. Group members are free to continue their membership and may join more than one taskforce. The time commitment varies by role and can also vary by time of year.

If you're looking to become more involved with your primary section, consider becoming an ESPO junior representative! Junior reps help their primary section's officers on section tasks and activities and assist in developing a designated ESPO symposium for your section..

The [Call for Volunteers](#) will open in mid-October. Look out for GSA communications to view the open roles and responsibilities. Interested members only need to fill out a brief application form; selected members will be notified of their appointments in mid-December.

If you're not ready to commit to a group membership position, consider a special volunteer opportunity at the Annual Scientific Meeting: "Careers in Aging Day Ambassador." The commitment will be two to four hours on Friday, November 15. Be on the lookout for additional details in October.

Be sure to look for the [Call for Volunteers](#) and connect with ESPO officers and volunteers at the Annual Scientific Meeting! We look forward to working with you!

“Recent scientific advances establish that many strategies can help preserve brain health and that having early conversations and making specific plans should start early as part of routine health care to optimize brain health,” said Bonnie Burman, ScD, a member of the expert advisory panel for the toolkit and president of the [Ohio Council for Cognitive Health](#). “Evidence demonstrates that there are specific actions that can help preserve brain health. Further, the recent approval of disease-modifying therapies offers new hope for preserving cognition.”

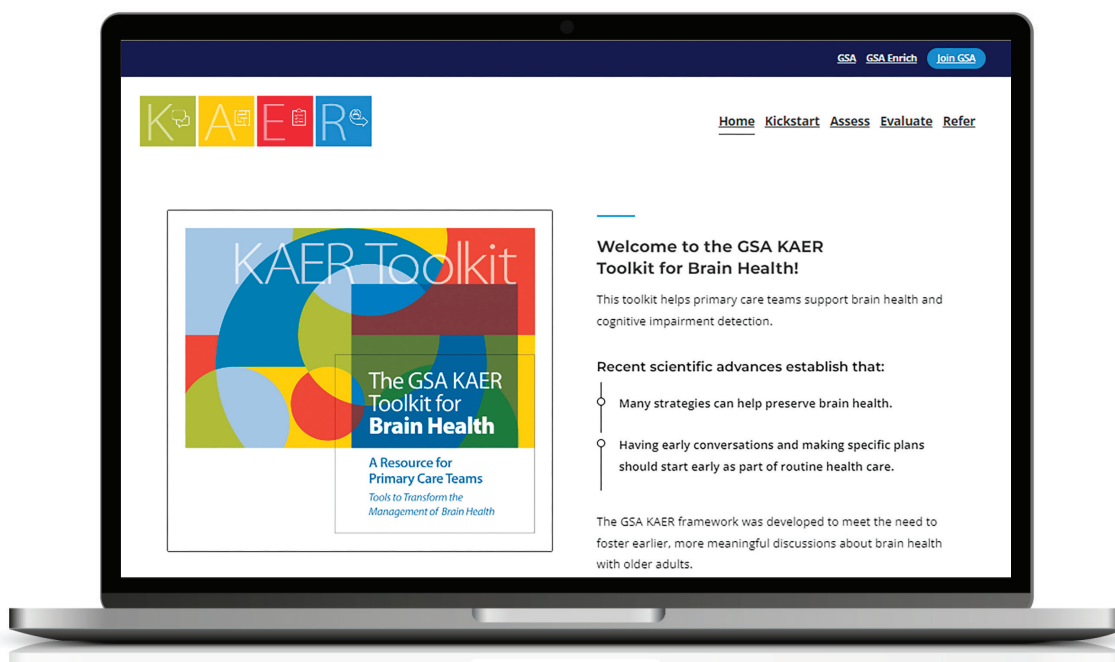
The KAER Toolkit for Brain Health is focused on a framework first introduced in a 2015 report from the GSA Workgroup on Cognitive Impairment Detection and Earlier Diagnosis.

The acronym is derived from a four-step process:

GSA first published the KAER toolkit addressing brain health in 2017 and has continued to update it to accommodate changes to clinical evidence and the availability of new educational and clinical resources. To develop the new edition, GSA conducted a rigorous review of current and evidence-based tools and resources and engaged an expert advisory panel comprised of neurologists, nurses, social workers, geriatricians, and other brain health experts to review and contribute to the toolkit.

The acronym is derived from a four-step process:

- Kickstart the brain health conversation
- Assess for cognitive impairment
- Evaluate for dementia
- Refer for community resources



This new edition has been adapted for web-based use while preserving the key approaches for implementing the KAER framework. All content and design updates are made to enhance the toolkit's usefulness for primary care teams, health professional educators and students, and others. It includes practical approaches, educational resources, and validated clinical tools that teams can integrate into their clinical workflow.

In addition to adapting the toolkit to a more user-friendly format, other updates in this version of the toolkit include expanded information about strategies to prevent or delay cognitive decline and additional resources to meet the

needs of all individuals including those from underrepresented, disproportionately affected, and marginalized communities.

In 2022, GSA also applied the KAER framework to the chronic disease of obesity and published [The Gerontological Society of America KAER Toolkit for the Management of Obesity in Older Adults](#). This toolkit is intended to support primary care teams who seek to implement a comprehensive approach to help older adults with overweight and obesity recognize and care for their condition.

Support for the KAER Toolkit for Brain Health is provided by Eisai, Genentech, Lilly, and Otsuka.



Online Anytime

The Society's online learning center for resources offers cutting-edge toolkits, engaging webinars, and thought-provoking podcasts. It's your passport to staying ahead in the ever-evolving field of aging studies.

This month, we're excited to introduce new webinars, including "[Career Conversation: Preparing for Promotion in the Non-Tenure Track](#)." This session is tailored to provide you with valuable insights and strategies to advance your career, especially for those navigating the unique challenges of the non-tenure track.

[GSA's Flash Video Series](#) features papers and posters from GSA Annual Scientific Meeting student awardees. These videos focus on advancing award-winning topics about the findings, limitations, and future work.

And don't forget about the [Ageism First Aid](#) course! This essential course offers practical exercises and engaging content designed to shift negative perceptions of aging, equip you with strategies to combat ageism, and empower you to advocate for inclusive, age-friendly communities.

Log in to GSA Enrich today and make the most of these resources to enhance your knowledge and career growth this September!

New Webinars

- [Career Conversation: Preparing for Promotion in the Non-Tenure Track](#)
- [GSA Flash Video Series](#)

New Podcast

- [Addressing Brain Health in Asian American Communities](#)

Ongoing Considerations for Large Language Models AI in Gerontological Education



By M. Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW, Arizona State University
AGHE Communications Workgroup Chair

The rapid innovation in artificial intelligence has led to confusion. Indeed, even my recent column feels dated. Advances in AI have the potential to change the relationship between instructors and students. As we begin our third academic year with readily available [large-language AI models](#), let's look at where we find ourselves.

The Good

AI-powered tools can enhance personalized learning by adapting to student needs through tailored content and real-time feedback. Instructors can leverage AI to automate administrative tasks and identify learning gaps. AI is being used to develop [virtual teaching assistants](#) and automated grading systems. It is important to know where your university stands on AI use.

The Bad

Increased use of AI can exacerbate inequalities, as factors such as the cost of the various applications and the learning curve for use can limit engagement. Privacy concerns are heightened as AI systems collect and analyze extensive student data, posing confidentiality and data security risks.

Additionally, systems such as [Turnitin](#) have launched software to identify when students have relied on AI; these systems are still in their infancy and are increasingly being found to be [unreliable](#). They can only tell you when a sentence is structured in a way that AI may have written- but what is to say that is not just how someone writes?

Now What?

AI has been part of the college experience for some time now. Think about spellcheck, predictive text, e-mail spam boxes, or plagiarism checkers. We have become so accustomed to

their use we rarely think about the underlying technology that powers them. As we enter the new academic year, there are a few best practices to consider:

Be upfront about your acceptance of AI

The course syllabus should include a statement about the acceptability of using AI in the course. This can include anything from a free-for-all to no acceptance at all. You can find [examples of some language online](#). I meet in the middle and state that specific assignments may be appropriate to use AI to support the student's work. Which leads us to ...

Transparency

If students are using AI, it is essential that they appropriately disclose the use and [cite appropriately](#) (if applicable). Students must also understand that AI does not absolve them if the AI commits plagiarism – they must be sure the information they are using is accurate. The use of AI does not negate their responsibility to academic integrity.

Ethical considerations

Students should be advised to consider how the data they provide to any AI will be used. Currently, Chat GPT 4.0 has an option to prevent the AI from learning from the data you provide – [but not all do](#).

Although the promised AI revolution was oversold, we must prepare students for careers that [expect familiarity](#).

Aging plays in changing attitudes towards aging through research-based communication strategies," D'Antonio told a crowd of 1,500 in her acceptance speech. "We have dedicated ourselves to being instrumental in raising awareness about ageism and promoting a more accurate and productive understanding of aging."

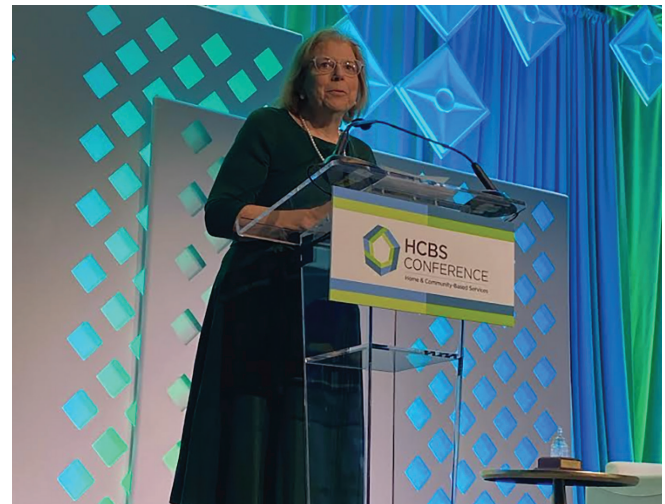
The award has been given since 1978, and is named in honor of Flemming, the first U.S. commissioner on aging, who dedicated many years to public service – advocating for the dignity and rights of older adults and justice for all people. The National Center to Reframe Aging, which is led by GSA, is aligned with this important legacy to influence programs and policies to support us all as we age. Robert Butler, MD, FGSA, who coined the term "ageism," is also a past recipient of the award.

"We are grateful for this acknowledgement of the National Center's impact since being established as the central hub for the movement to reframe aging," D'Antonio said. "Likewise, we are gratified by the engagement of the many individuals and organizations we have been privileged to work with, and for the support of the forward-thinking philanthropic organizations, The John A. Hartford Foundation, RRF Foundation for Aging, Archstone Foundation, and The SCAN Foundation, who believe in our vision."

ADvancing States' announcement of the award stated, "The Board of Directors recognizes the

critical role that the National Center to Reframe Aging is playing to change the narrative and public perception of aging through research-based communication strategies. The center has been successful at helping combat ageism and promoting a more accurate and positive understanding of aging."

ADvancing States represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities and long-term services and supports directors. It supports visionary leadership, the advancement of systems innovation, and the articulation of national policies that support long-term services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities.



D'Antonio gave acceptance remarks on behalf of the National Center at the ADvancing States' annual Home and Community-Based Services Conference.

GSAenrich
Online Anytime

Advance Your Career
Master manuscript writing and reviewing
with GSA webinars.

GSA
Manuscript Writing
Program

DUAL-TITLE PhD IN GERONTOLOGY

The Gerontology Program of the Center on Aging and the Life Course at Purdue University

Combine a doctoral program of disciplinary depth with interdisciplinary breadth in gerontology to achieve the most useful credential in the field.

Earn the dual-title PhD in gerontology and one of the following fields:

- Anthropology
- Communication
- Health & Kinesiology
- Human Development & Family Science
- Nursing
- Nutrition Science
- Pharmacy Practice
- Psychological Sciences
- Sociology
- Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

CONTACT: Hui (Cathy) Liu, PhD
Director, Center on Aging and the Life Course
calc@purdue.edu • purdue.edu/aging

EAV/EOU




GSA 2024

THE FORTITUDE FACTOR
Seattle, WA | November 13 -16

KEYNOTE



DR. RICHARD J. HODES

Dr. Richard J. Hodes, Director of the National Institute on Aging, will be the keynote at the GSA 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from a leader in aging research.

REGISTER TODAY

GerontologyNews

Volume 55 | Issue No 9 | September 2024



Editor-in-Chief / Lead Author

Todd Kluss
tkluss@geron.org



Managing Editor

Karen Tracy
ktracy@geron.org

Advertising Policy

Gerontology News accepts ads for conferences and special events, fellowships, jobs, and degree programs relevant to the field of aging. **Ad rates are available at www.geron.org.** We reserve the right to reject or discontinue any advertising. Ads do not constitute an endorsement by the Gerontological Society of America.

Copyright © 2024 by the Gerontological Society of America. Articles may be reproduced for educational purposes without permission. Please credit Gerontology News.

Gerontology News (ISSN 1083 222X) is published monthly by the Gerontological Society of America, 1101 14th Street NW, Suite 1220, Washington, DC 20005.